

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:FHMISCH:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
-----000238 160158Z /64
O 160118Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PGOV, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS - AFTERNOON SESSION
MARCH 15.

1. AFTERNOON SESSION MARCH 15 WAS TAKEN UP WITH ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY OF AMBASSADOR PORTER. CONGRESSMEN FRASER AND DERWINSKI WERE ONLY MEMBERS PRESENT.
2. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF BLUE HOUSE MEETINGS. CONGRESSMAN FRASER LED OFF WITH QUESTIONS ON U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF MEETINGS IN THE BLUE HOUSE. AMBASSADOR PORTER RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. HAD RECEIVED MANY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON MEETINGS AND THAT IN HIS OPINION THE KOREAN GOVT WAS IN FAVOR OF OUR HAVING THE INFORMATION OR WE WOULD NOT RECEIVE IT. FURTHER QUESTIONING ON BLUE HOUSE MEETINGS CONCENTRATED ON ASSERTIONS THAT PRESIDENT PARK HAD MADE EFFORTS TO BRING UNDER CONTROL THE KOREAN LOBBYING EFFORTS IN THE U.S., AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT TONGSUN PARK (TSP) MAY HAVE BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE LOBBYING EFFORT.

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AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID THAT LOBBYING ON KOREA'S BEHALF COULD HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED AND CARRIED ON BY A WIDE RANGE OF INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THE KCIA STATION CHIEF, THE EMBASSY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, AND PERSONS CONNECTED WITH RADIO FREE ASIA, BUT THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANY INDICATION THAT TSP HAD EVER BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF ANY

LOBBYING PLAN. PORTER SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THAT KOREAN AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT TSP WAS TOO INEXPERIENCED TO ORGANIZE AND MANAGE A COMPLEX LOBBYING OPERATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SHOULD BE TREATED WITH DUE SKEPTICISM, KEEPING IN MIND THAT THEY OFTEN REFLECTED INFORMATION THAT THE SOURCES WANTED THE U.S.G. TO HEAR.

2. SOURCES OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

CONGRESSMAN FRASER ENGAGED IN A DISCURSIVE EXCHANGE WITH AMBASSADOR PORTER ON THE ACCURACY, SOURCES, AND MEANS OF ACQUISITION FOR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. THE CONGRESSMAN ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE USE OF COLLECTION METHODS OTHER THAN INDIVIDUAL SOURCES. AMBASSADOR PORTER COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT INDIVIDUAL SOURCES HAD BEEN USED IN ALL CASES THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS CONSIDERING BUT THAT HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THE MOTIVATION OF ANY ROKG SOURCE FOR SOME OF THE INFORMATION IN SOME OF THE REPORTS ON THE BLUE HOUSE.

3. USG REACTION TO TSP LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID THE ATMOSPHERE IN WASHINGTON AS SEEN FROM THE FIELD APPEARED PERMISSIVE WITH REGARD TO KOREAN LOBBYING EFFORTS. KOREA WAS AN ALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRIBUTING 50,000 TROOPS TO OUR EFFORTS IN VIETNAM AND WE ARE GENEROUS TO THOSE WHO HELP US. LOBBYING EFFORTS OF OTHER STATES AT THAT TIME (INCLUDING ISRAEL) SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE CONGRESS WAS CERTAINLY AWARE OF CONTACTS KOREANS WERE MAKING ON THE HILL. THE CONTINUING HISTORY OF NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION WAS STILL A FACT OF LIFE WHICH CAUSED KOREA'S CONCERN ABOUT U.S. COMMITMENT. ASKED IF HE KNEW OF ANY EXECUTIVE BRANCH EFFORTS TO INFORM THE CONGRESS, AMBASSADOR SAID HE PERSONALLY KNEW OF ONE MATTER INVOLVING OFFICE OF SPEAKER ALBERT.

4. "RECALL" OF TONGSUN PARK AND DEPARTMENT ACTIONS.

AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID THAT IN RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON HE RAISED TSP ISSUE WITH PRIMIN CHONG IL-KWON. HE RECALLED THAT USG REACTION TO TSP ACTIVITIES WAS PROMPTED BY REPORTS OF TSP REPRESENTING HIMSELF AS ROKG AGENT AND POSSIBLY COUSIN OF PRESIDENT. AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID THAT KOREAN OFFICIALS TOOK HIS REPRESENTATION SERIOUSLY AND SAID THEY DIDN'T

WANT ANYONE AT LARGE WHO WOULD PUT KOREA IN A BAD LIGHT. CHONG TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WOULD TAKE UP ISSUE WITH BLUE HOUSE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE DOES NOT RECALL EVER SPEAKING TO PRESIDENT PARK ON TSP, BUT HE THOUGHT TSP HAD BEEN CALLED HOME BY KOREAN AUTHORITIES SHORTLY BEFORE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED HIS TOUR IN SEOUL.

5. STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE DECLASSIFIED AT THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S REQUEST WERE AS A COURTESY PASSED TO THE ROK EMBASSY PRIOR TO THE HEARINGS.

6. AT CLOSE OF HEARINGS, JAPANESE REPORTERS QUERIED THE DEPARTMENT, SUGGESTING THAT RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNIFIES A RISE IN THE LEVEL OF U.S.G. DISPLEASURE WITH THE ROKG. WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT THE DOCUMENTS WERE DECLASSIFIED IN LINE WITH DEPARTMENT RELEASES OF INFORMATION TO PRIVATE CITIZENS UNDER FOI CRITERIA. WE HAVE DECLINED TO DECLASSIFY ON VALID GROUNDS A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER DOCUMENTS THE SUBCOMMITTEE WANTED TO RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC. YOU MAY EXPLAIN THIS TO ROKG IF QUERIED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, BRIBERY, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE067332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FHMISCH:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780116-0292
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780359/aaaabxyn.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eedea1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3303639
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS - AFTERNOON SESSION MARCH 15.
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, US, KS
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eedea1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014